TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 4, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 30 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 2.1 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 220.4 billion ton-miles, down 4.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 30 totaled 397,521, down 4.6 percent from last year, and 0.5 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.6 percent in the South, but down 6.1 percent in the East and 6.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand by 1,865 cars (18.8 percent). Eleven of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 23 totaled 87,343 trailers and/or containers, 4.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 12 weeks of the year was 995,103 trailers and/or containers, down 4.2 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/30/85:

	Loadings in Week ended March 30, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,350	D	6,068	21.4	D	823	3.6
Other farm products	3,169	D	278	8.1	D	176	5.3
Metallic ores	13,908	D	4,294	23.6	D	952	6.4
Coal	119,365	D	1,806	1.5	D	3,864	3.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,763	I	1,865	18.8	D	186	1.6
Nonmetallic minerals	11,560	D	1,142	9.0	D	341	2.9
Grain mill products	10,931	D	394	3.5	I	557	5.4
Food and kindred products	11,384	D	151	1.3	I	442	4.0
Primary forest products	12,532	D	1,464	10.5	D	79	0.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,681	D	911	10.6	I	749	10.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,927	D	1,021	6.4	I	479	3.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,423	I	588	2.2	I	79	0.3
Petroleum products	4,678	I	154	3.4	D	190	3.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,361	I	286	2.6	D	37	0.3
Coke	5,218	D	151	2.8	I	377	7.8
Metals and products	9,922	D	1,408	12.4	I	492	5.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,636	I	841	3.9	I	427	1.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,973	D	925	8.5	D	175	1.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,953	D	556	7.4	I	248	3.7
All other carloads	59,640	D	2,309	3.7	I	914	1.6
LCL traffic	147	D	151	50.7	I	17	13.1
Total Cars Loaded	397,521	D	19,295	4.6	D	2,042	0.5
Corresponding week of 1984	416,816						

	1985	1984	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (13 weeks)	4,763,632	5,046,905	D	5.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
12 Weeks ended March 23	202.1	212.4	D	4.9
Week ended March 30	18.3	18.7	D	2.1
13 weeks cumulative	220.4	231.1	D	4.7

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